# CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE TEACHER

## STUDENTS SAY THE BEST TEACHERS:

1. Know us personally.
   1. List 2 strategies you use at the beginning of the year to get to know your students:
      1. I have students fill out a student information sheet that asks about practically everything about their lives and I read them the first night.
      2. I try to have their names learned by the 2nd day. I use seating charts to help learn students’ names.
      3. I tell them about myself.
2. Let us know who they are as individuals.
3. Smile at us.
4. Remember our names and use them.
5. Speak to us – Say hello and goodbye.
6. Argue (banter, tease, joke) with us in a fun way in informal situations.
7. Remind us about school activities. They encourage us to participate.
8. Are ready for class, and engage us in the learning process.
9. Come see us perform in activities beyond the school day.
10. Establish rules for everyone including themselves.
11. Show no favoritism or perception of favoritism.
12. Are consistent in moods and interactions.
13. Allow all students equal opportunities in class participation and assignments.
14. Are mindful that we are always watching and observing their behavior before, during and after school.
15. Admit it when they mess up or make mistakes.
16. Tell us how we will use what we are learning in the real world.
17. Use effective practices, like hands-on projects. They keep up with the latest ideas.
18. Use technology and find ways we can use our own technology at school in appropriate ways.
19. Give meaningful work. They know we do not like word searches, worksheets, or busy work.
20. Are energetic, enthusiastic and enjoy their job.
21. Help us beyond the school day or on their own time with our work.
22. Are in control of the class.
23. Tell us how we did on our work – timely and specific.
24. Positively affect us in profound and lasting ways.
25. Tell us they believe in us and work with us to be successful.
26. Motivate us in unique ways.

*Compiled from the book: “Simply the Best” by Kelly E. Middleton and Elizabeth Petitt and “Characteristics of an Effective Teacher” by Dr. Robert J. Walker (Tara Brown: The Connection Coach,* [*www.TheConnectionCoach.org*](http://www.TheConnectionCoach.org)*)*

List 2 motivational strategies you use with your students:

1. Relate what they are doing to real life as much as possible.
2. Use Teacher Assistant of the Week.
3. Use assertive discipline (acknowledge good behavior, award consequences for bad behavior)
4. Look on the bright side of a class situation. They see the glass as “half-full”
5. Start each day with a “clean slate”; we see that they don’t hold a grudge.
6. Show sensitivity for our feelings, and avoid situations that might embarrass us.
7. Challenge us to do our best.
   1. List 2 strategies you use to help your students get to know each other and build class community:
      1. Rearrange seating often
      2. Encourage peers to help one another
   2. List 2 ways in which you help your students get to know you:
      1. Talk about my weekends
      2. Talk about my life
   3. Identify 3 areas you are willing to commit to improving this year and explain how these areas will positively impact your students, the environment, and academic achievement:
8. Reflect on your all-time favorite teacher. Explain why this teacher was your favorite, and list those qualities and characteristics that made them great. What impact did they have on you as both a student and an individual that year and beyond.
9. Now reflect on your least favorite teacher. Explain why this teacher was your least favorite, and list the traits and behaviors that made them the worst. What impact did they have on you as both a student and an individual that year and beyond.